

required to be sorted.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

~~{0018}~~ [0014] FIGURE 1 shows a configuration of an information processing apparatus in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention;

~~{0019}~~ [0015] FIGURE 2 shows the structure of an object data set of an object;

~~{0020}~~ [0016] FIGURE 3 shows the hierarchy of a plurality of linked objects which are represented by a plurality of respective linked object data sets;

~~{0021}~~ [0017] FIGURE 4 is a schematic flow chart for generating and rendering images of the objects that is executed by the controller in accordance with a three-dimensional Web browser program;

~~{0022}~~ [0018] FIGURE 5 shows a schematic flow chart for rendering the images of the objects in accordance with the invention;

~~{0023}~~ [0019] FIGURE 6 shows an example of the geometrical relationships between a field of view of a user and objects;

~~{0024}~~ [0020] FIGURES 7A to 7C show an example of display screens of object images during the zooming-in operation, in accordance with movement of the viewpoint;

~~{0025}~~ [0021] FIGURES 8A to 8^E show an example of a process for rendering images of the plurality of objects in accordance with the invention;

~~{0026}~~ [0022] FIGURE 9A shows a displayed image in which the object in FIGURE 8E is semi-transparent; and

~~{0027}~~ [0023] FIGURE 9B shows a displayed image in which the objects in FIGURE 9A are semi-transparent.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

[0024] In the conventional algorithm above, when a number of objects are arranged in a virtual three-dimensional space, a long time and a large memory resource are required to sort object polygons thereof. Thus the sorting may not be desirable for real-time displaying of three-dimensional images.